By DHL

المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

10 September 1991

H E Mr Deng Xiaoping
Senior Member of the Communist Party of
the People's Republic of China

Excellency,

In the name of humanitarian concern for the suffering millions of Iraqis, allow me to present the Islamic Council's fervent appeal to you to lend the weight of your great authority and world-wide prestige as the elder statesman of the People's Republic of China to help to alleviate the abject misery to which the oil-rich nation of Iraq, renowned for the cultural heritage of its ancient civilisation, has been reduced by the embargo placed on all its trade, including oil sales, for more than one year.The embargo itself has already cost Iraq a loss of an estimated $17 billion in lost oil production, the halt of production in other sectors and delays in development projects.

The real tragedy is that, months after the ceasefire, millions of innocent Iraqi men, women and children are deprived of the basic necessities of life and are suffering terrible hardship. There is already widespread starvation and disease and the situation can only deteriorate in the coming months. Children are most vulnerable and already thousands have died.

The UN's special envoy to the Gulf, Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, testified that Iraq faced the threat of massive starvation and appealed for an easing of sanctions to meet the urgent need for humanitarian food supplies. Iraq was authorised to sell oil limited to a value of $1.6 billion over 6 months from August, but of this only about $1 billion will be available under UN supervision for Iraq's purchase of emergency food and medical supplies. The UN itself has estimated that at least $2.65 billion are needed for the next 4 months alone just to provide disaster level rations of food , 40% of pre-war levels of drinking water and 50% of electricity, and the Secretary General himself has called for more help for Iraq.

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At stake are the lives of 18 million Iraqi people, of which no less than 200,000 are children under the age of 4. In Baghdad alone there are an estimated 85,000 homeless.Iraq has complied with all the conditions of the UN resolutions passed against it and now only the total lifting of sanctions can have any real effect on this disaster.We call upon you to use the utmost influence of your position to support this action. Your compassion would bring honour and prestige to China and would earn her, and you, the deepest gratitude of Muslims, and of all who care about humanity, throughout the world.

With the assurance of my highest consideration,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General